

MARY HANNAH CLARK.

JUNE 21, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4977.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4977) granting a pension to Mary Hannah Clark, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

This bill proposes to pension at \$12 per month Mary Hannah Clark, of Marblehead, Mass., the blind and dependent daughter of John W. Clark, who appears to have served in Company B, Eighth Massachusetts Infantry, from April 30, 1861, to August 1, 1861, and is shown by the records of the War Department to have served in Company B, Eighth Massachusetts Infantry, from September 15, 1862, to August 7, 1863, and in Company A, Fourth Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, from August 5, 1864, to June 17, 1865.

Soldier filed a claim under the general law May 12, 1881, based on fever and ague, and furnished evidence of the origin of said disease in the service and its continuance. He was examined by a surgeon in 1881, but the report says nothing about chills and fever or disease of liver, but shows a very bad condition from disease of lungs. A certificate of the town clerk of Marblehead, Mass., dated March 12, 1891, is as follows:

“Died, Marblehead, January 22, 1883, John W. Clark, 40 years, 6 months, 6 days. Cause of death, disease of liver.”

That claim has not been adjudicated. Dr. H. H. F. Whittenmore, under date of July 20, 1866, certified that on or about April 1, 1865, claimant contracted disease of the heart and did no duty afterwards, and his present condition is, “Looks feeble, complains of dyspnoea on the least exertion; can not walk fast or work hard, and is not the man he was before he contracted the disease.”

Dr. M. V. B. Morse, in an affidavit filed May 12, 1881, testifies that he had been the claimant's family physician for ten years. When first called to treat him found him troubled with rheumatism, associated with disease of heart which produced dyspnoea. Said diseases were alleged to have been contracted in military service in line of duty. Has been suffering from said disease ever since, and gradually growing worse. There

can be no doubt that his health was seriously impaired by the disease contracted in the Army.

In an affidavit filed in October, 1883, the same physician testifies that in 1871 soldier was suffering from intermittent fever and chronic rheumatism, which he claimed he contracted in the service. The rheumatism had produced valvular lesion of the heart. Diseases continued and he grew feebler in health until eighteen months previous to his death, when he began to be troubled with a bronchial affection, which, together with the diseases previously mentioned, so reduced his condition that he died January 22, 1883, when the cause of his death was reported to be phthisis, although the bronchitis was only one of the diseases that contributed to the final result, and had it not intervened his life would have been prolonged but a very short time. Is positive that the disease that caused his death resulted from his army service.

The soldier's wife died in 1881, two years before he died, but he left two minor children and one daughter 20 years old, the claimant in this case, who was totally blind. A claim was filed on account of the minors, but that appears never to have been adjudicated.

The claimant in this case has no legal title, as she was 20 years of age at the date of her father's death, but she was born blind and has been so ever since. She has no income or means of support, and is dependent upon others not legally bound for her support. It is probable, though not certain, that her father's death was due to his military service.

She comes clearly within the rules established by this committee in the consideration of claims of this character.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass.